

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 L-02 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NEA-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01

OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

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P R 170443Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4853

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 0385

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, AS

SUBJ: DIRECTOR OF UN CENTER ON MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS

REF: (A) CANBERRA 332; (B) STATE 6805

1. EMBASSY OFFICER CALLED JAN. 17 ON WHITE, NEW ASSISTANT SECRETARY, ECONOMIC ORGANISATIONS BRANCH, EDPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. DRAWING UPON REFTEL (B), EMBASSY OFFICER DETAILED REASONS USG CANNOT SUPPORT CANDIDACY OF JUAN SOMAVIA FOR DIRECTOR OF MNC INFORMATION AND RESEARCH CENTER IN UN SECRETARIAT. STRESSING THAT U.S. OBJECTION IS TO SOMAVIA'S LACK OF OBJECTIVITY ON MNC ISSUES AND NOT HIS CONNECTION WITH FORMER CHILEAN REGIME, EMBASSY OFFICER SAID U.S. OBJECTIVES TO HAVE DIRECTOR OF RECOGNIZED ABILITY AND OBJECTIVITY REGARDLESS OF NATIONALITY.

2. WHITE, WHO WAS LARGELY UNFAMILIAR WITH DIRECTORSHIP QUESTION, AGREED THAT AUSTRALIA SHARES USG DESIRE FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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OBJECTIVITY. HE INDICATED THAT DFA HAS NOT YET

GIVEN DEEP CONSIDERATION TO SOMAVIA AND DOES NOT
PLAN TO PROPOSE ITS OWN CANDIDATE. WHITE KNOWS OF NO
OTHER CANDIDATES BUT EXPRESSED INTEREST
IN POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL CANDIDATES, PARTICULARLY
THOSE USG COULD SUPPORT.

3. EMBASSY COMMENT: AUSTRALIANS MIGHT WELL BE
WILLING TO SUPPORT CANDIDATE ACCEPTABLE TO USG ON
HIS MERITS, ALTHOUGH POSSIBILITY THEY WILL SUPPORT
LDC CANDIDATE CANNOT BE DISCOUNTED. WE DID NOT RAISE
AUSTRALIAN NAMES MENTIONED REF (B).

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE US OF ANY ADDITIONAL
CANDIDATES ACCEPTABLE TO USG SO THAT EMBASSY CAN REQUEST GOA
SUPPORT, IF DEPARTMENT DESIRES.

GREEN

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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